

Restructuring the Student Experience

The Office of Academic Advising

By Adrian Perryman

The new year brought many changes to Concordia: new students, a new semester, and some new faces in the Office of Academic Advising. Restructuring of the advising process began in 2014 as part of a larger Enrollment Management structure focused on enhancing the student experience. In the past, a student was assigned an academic advisor upon acceptance to the university and they were later switched to a faculty advisor once a major was declared. "The focus is on student success. We want the students to have uniform experience during their time at Concordia. The academic advisors will now be able to better supplement the great work done by the faculty advisors," said Kristin Vogel, Associate Vice President for Traditional Enrollment Management.

Under the new model, students will keep their original academic advisor throughout their time at Concordia. However, Students will still work with faculty advisors in their major field as the go-to for major-specific items including internships, major course substitutions, career outcomes and more. This will allow students to have multiple options for advice on their academic path and allow the faculty advisors to better serve students in their areas of expertise.

Previously, one faculty advisor may have worked with five students with an internship while another was only advising one. The new model will allow students to be paired with the best faculty members to serve their academic needs. The new advising model will also create a centralized location for all advising needs.

The five staff members that make up the Office of Academic Advising have over sixty combined years of Concordia experience. Director of Academic Advising, Gretchen Walther, leads the new team. She has served multiple roles in the Office of Admissions and as an academic advisor to students in our cohort programs. She will continue to work with the cohort students as well as with students in the departments of business administration, kinesiology & health sciences, mathematics, science, and undeclared students.

Adrian Perryman, who previously served as an Assistant Director of Admissions, has transitioned to the role of Assistant Director of Academic Advising. He will be working with students in the departments of art, communication studies, English & modern languages, music, history & political science, theater, and PSEO students.

Karla Hansen rounds out the three from the LMC. She also has years of experience in academic advising and admissions. The departments of social & behavioral sciences, and teacher education will work with Karla. Charles "Chuck" Hines is wearing many hats here at Concordia. One of which will be to work with military students for their advising needs. Jacquelyn Magnuson who has been working with the department of religion & theology since 2013 will continue in that role and serve as the advisor for all church-work students. Academic Advising Intern Bailey Patet is also available to assist students with their advising needs. She is currently enrolled in the Leadership in Student Affairs program at the University of St. Thomas and is working towards her Master's Degree.

Walther said she is excited to work with such an experienced and dedicated team. "Bringing people who know so much about Concordia's strong academic programs as well as those with existing relationship with

students has created a very strong department moving forward." New freshman and transfers who began during the 2014-15 academic year and all new students moving forward are and will be assigned one of the new academic advisors. Current sophomores, juniors, and seniors will remain with their current faculty advisors throughout their time at Concordia but all students are encouraged to reach out to the academic advising office as needed.

The academic advisors, peer advisors, and advising interns will be available to answer questions and meet with students Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at other times by appointment. The Office of Academic Advising is located in the tunnel in AD 121 and can be reached at 651-603-6318 and advising@csp.edu.



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The Sword



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Dear Concordia faculty, staff, students, and community members,

Welcome to the second edition of The Sword for 2015 spring semester. Nothing says spring is just around the corner like 30 degree weather followed by a blizzard warning. All of this is to promote growth and that leads to my next comment: Concordia is growing! Everywhere I look, I see new faces and less space. The halls are very crowded and parking is a nightmare but I feel nothing except happiness. The reason for my joy is that more people are becoming educated and that causes individuals to make better informed decisions about everything. Nothing frightens dishonesty more than being able to make an informed decision.

Another reason for my happiness are the conversations I hear while walking the halls of the school. I hear people discussing religion, politics, sports, and just general concerns. Why does this make me happy? I guess I should tell you why or this would be a wasted paragraph. I am happy because they are discussing the problems or concerns and not arguing with each other about why either one is right. Taking in the climate of social media, you would believe that either you think just alike or you despise each other. The other reason is the members of this school are very diverse and the groups having these discussion are not all the same type of people. We are just a small drop in a very large bucket but some of the greatest instruments of change started just like this.

The Sword is a part of Concordia and that means we share the same vision as the school. We are growing and becoming more diverse with the growth of the student population. In our growth, we could use a little help from our readers. Even though we do our best to make sure we are covering as much as possible on the campus, we could use some suggestions from our readers. If you have ideas or areas you would like, please feel free to contact the paper or myself directly. If you would like to write an article, the same applies. Come join the staff and make our paper as diverse as our school. Spring Break is right around the corner, so please enjoy and be safe.



Spring is In the Air,
Charles Hines
Editor-in-Chief

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Business Club Spotlight

By Katrina Bell

Business Club focuses on expanding students business and professional knowledge in an effort to be ready for the work place after college. "Concordia is not really the real world. This is more of an adult campus compared to other colleges, but the real world is when you're out there doing projects for companies," says senior Derek Peloquin, President of the Concordia Business Club.

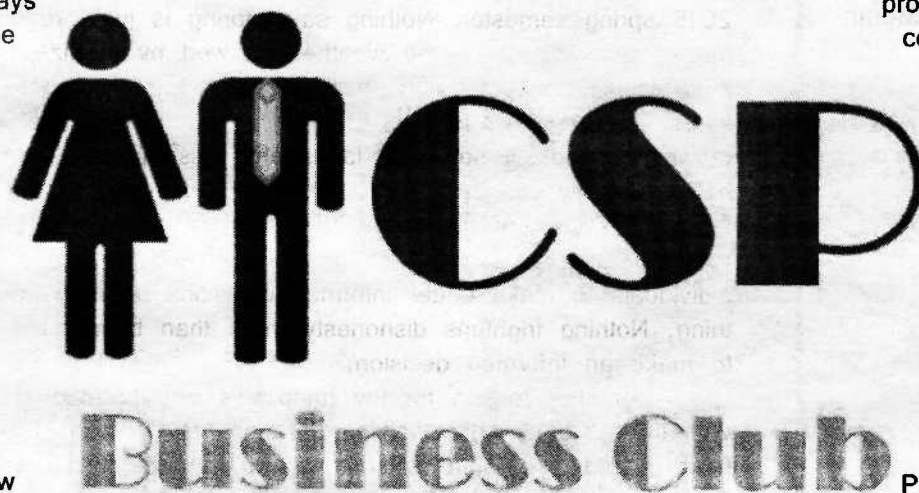
According to marketing major Peloquin, the Business Club was not an established club in previous years. Under the advisement of Peloquin, Business Club has been more free reigned this year and has been open to a variety of events that reflect Business Club. Holding events each semester, the present goal is to set the club up for future success and to encourage new members to join. "The club is mostly upperclassmen, and we would like a lot more people to join next year," says Peloquin.

One of the events held this year was the Business Etiquette Dinner on November 8th. The event built on the theme "Good Manners are Good Business" and was suit-and-tie Business club,

The evening was set at a max of sixty attendees and included networking time before the event, a short presentation from Dr. Nancy Harrower - Concordia Marketing professor and Business Club faculty advisor - a three-course meal, and door prizes. Invited to the event were professionals representing various corporations and businesses, including: Best Buy, Acosta, an Engineer from Microsoft and an Operations Director for a local non-profit.

Business Club meetings often include activities such as resume building and different speakers are often invited to the meetings to share their expertise on their field of business. Lately, the Business Club has been refining resumes for the Private College Job Fair, hosted at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

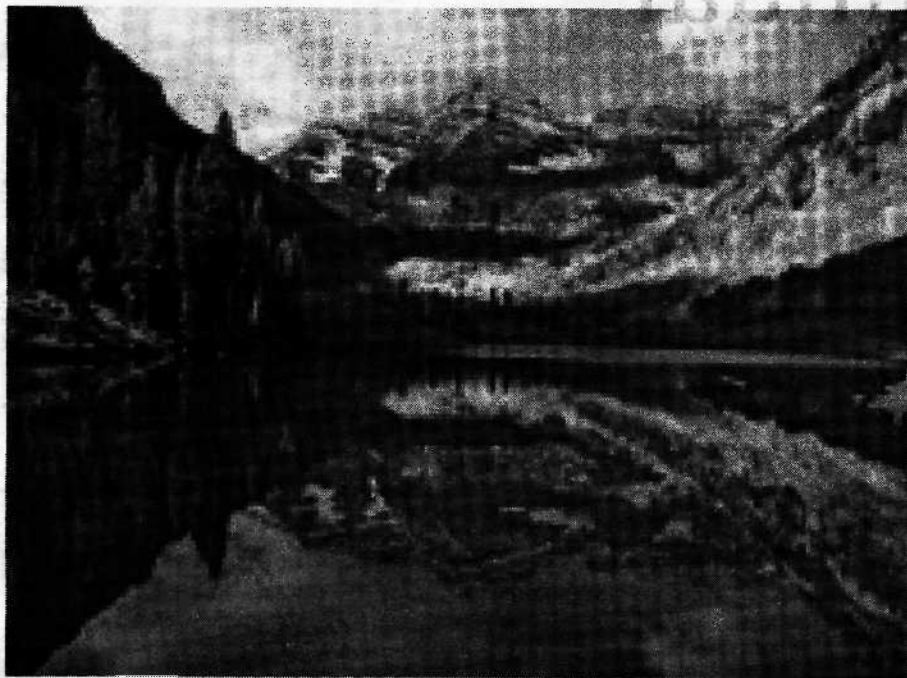
The Business Club is not only for business majors, but also those with majors that surround business or those with an interest in business are welcome to join. For more information about the Concordia Business Club, please email: businessclub@csp.edu



Time to Escape and Make A Difference

CSP Service Trips

By Tara Rupiper



Colorado

Every year, there is a time when one craves the escape to somewhere the sun is shining bright and the rays beat gloriously upon the skin. We know, coming from Minnesota, there isn't going to be much of that in the near future, with the temperatures reaching into the negatives. Concordia University is in luck because the C.A.L.L. Center is going on an affordable service trip to Colorado, March 7-14th, during spring break with seven students.

The service trip to Colorado is a fun, easy, and affordable way to get an experience, where students can get to know each other and the community by working and helping people in need. The trip to Colorado is being led by your fellow Concordia peers, Larissa Arnold and DeAngelo Friends. While the trip will be overseen by C.A.L.L. Center faculty, Taherah Shamsul-Bahri and Kimberly Newton, these two students have put this entire trip together from planning out an affordable budget and planning fun days for the trip goes to organizing fundraisers to help pay for their trip. Kim Newton, the C.A.L.L. Center intern, says the great thing about this trip is that it is completely student run, and it is a "very affordable trip. It is one of the more affordable



Kona, Hawaii

service trips where students don't have to spend tons of money."

There are plenty of opportunities for fundraising, so if you are thinking about doing a service trip of any kind in the future, just know there will be ways to raise money to help fund your trip. For example, if anyone was wondering about the delicious smell from time to time in the main tunnel of Concordia, everyone should be aware that it is the smell of savory pulled pork sandwiches being sold to raise money for service trips. Another way to raise money for trip funds would be to work at the Excel Center working in the food vendors' stations. These are some of the few ways students interested in raising money for their trip can use.

Although the trip is now closed to participating students willing to tag along on this awesome adventure, there will be other opportunities for students to check out next year. Students can check out these two incredible service trips: Nicaragua and Kona Hawaii!

The trip to Nicaragua is set to begin in January 2016. The cost to attend this trip is around \$1,700. The deadline for the application is October 1st. A \$50 deposit and application can be dropped off at the cashier's desk. The trip includes airfare,



Nicaragua

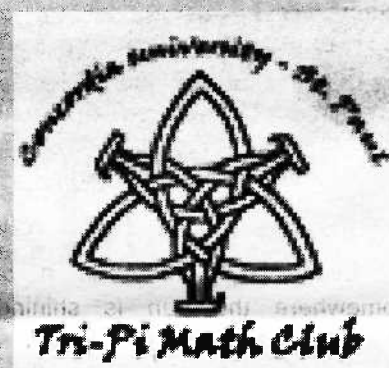
housing, and some of the activities that are planned during the trip. Three of the top key reasons for attending this great trip is to experience the Spanish language from the locals, discover students' unique talents and gifts, and experience the Nicaragua lifestyle and culture.

The other trip to Kona, Hawaii is also a great opportunity to experience. This trip will set to start spring break 2016. The cost to go on this trip is around \$2,100, which includes airfare, housing, and some activities as well. Just like the Nicaragua service trip, there is a \$50 deposit along with application. On this trip, students can hope to gain and grow their overall talents, get to experience the culture and life in Hawaii, as well as learning the techniques to construction.

This is a chance to go on unbelievable trips to experience things that you wouldn't normally do or see. This is a definite way to get some learning experience and to help yourself grow as a person. What better way to show self-growth than to help others along the way? If you are interested in information or attending these amazing trips, please contact either Kelly Matthias or Kimberly Newton on the C.A.L.L. Center email at call@csp.edu.

13th Annual TRI-PI GAME NIGHT

April 9, 2015



Signing Day

By Adam Svien

High School athletes from all over the nation are often courted by colleges in an attempt to get them to commit to their respective programs, then by signing day they make a decision and declare for their next team. Concordia University has had the luck of being propelled into the spotlight across the state and nation with the recent successes of Zach Moore & Tom Obarski, and also improving their records from last season. The athletic department is on the uprise very quickly, while maintaining a hunger for competition to be even better than the year before.

College football has always been a main area in the Midwest, similar to how basketball is a main area on the east coast. And on this signing day the Golden Bears welcomed

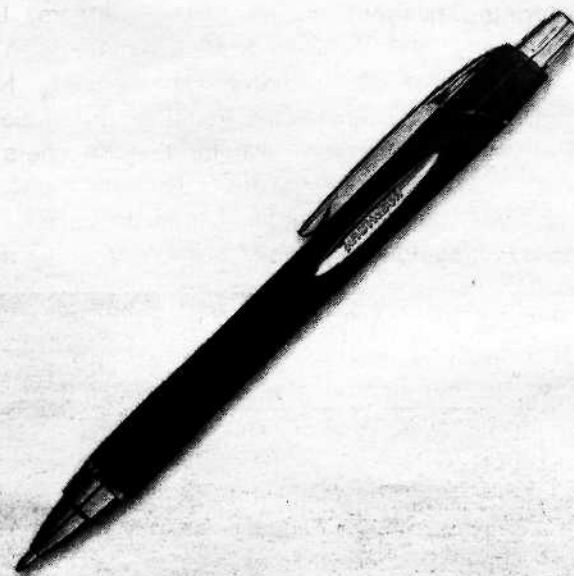
26 commits from all over the nation.

Conner Pal, a kicker out of Iowa said he chose Concordia over many schools including Iowa State, because "Concordia just felt like home to me."

Conner knows it will be a challenge to fill the shoes of Tom Obarski, but it's a challenge he looks forward to: "He is a great kicker, but I hope to be able to fill his shoes to the best of

my ability."

Though all 26 bring a fresh element to the team, two other people to keep an eye on are two kids out of Florida, Wide Receiver JD Coleman and Defensive Back Corey Taylor look to make an immediate impact. We shall see if there is a diamond in the rough with the rest of these boys. One thing is for sure the entire athletic department is on the rise, whether its football, volleyball, basketball, track and field, baseball, or soccer: the Golden Bears are hungry and ready for these new athletes to hit campus.



End of February Basketball Playoffs

By Tony Kohanek

It's the end of Concordia University's basketball season and both teams are very excited to get ready for post season. The women are getting ready to attempt a second straight Elite Eight appearance in the NCAA championship tournament. Before the NCAA tournament begins however, the women will try to win the NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) tournament. Last year, the woman's team won the tournament and received an automatic bid into the central regions tournament, which basically are the first three rounds of the championship tournament. The team is hoping to win it for the second year in a row. The conference is divided up into two divisions, North and South. The way the tournament is set up, the top four of one division will host seeds five through eight. Since Concordia is sixth in the South, Minnesota Crookston will be our opponent since they were third in the North.

This year, after losing starters Rachel Hansen and Carissa Wolyniec, the team had to find some people to fill these

two guard positions. The team was still able to finish the season off with a record of 15-13 overall and an NSIC record of 11-11 and a 6th seed in the northern division of the NSIC. This year, some freshmen and a transfer really put in some minutes to keep the season going. Sophomore Caitlyn Russel played in 25 games, and averaged just less than ten minutes per game. During a three game stint between December 12th and the 20th, she played double-digit minutes in all three games and had double-digit points in two of them.

From the freshman class, a real contributor is number 5, guard Kyras Fredenburg. She made it into 22 games and averaged 11 per game. She and Russel both had real nice numbers from late November to Mid-December. Fredenburg's started earlier, having double digit minutes in all three of those games, two overlapping with Russel, and having double digit points in one of those games. So whether you are a freshman coming in new or a transfer, contribution matters.

Male Athlete of the Month

Terez VanPelt

By Karina Schlecht

To some, basketball is just a game. To others like Terez Van Pelt, a senior at Concordia, it is an opportunity to better their opportunities in life. VanPelt grew up in an urban area of Chicago that he says is known as the "ghetto" or the "hood," and there was a lot of negativity in this neighborhood. There were also a lot of community centers, and this is where he got his start playing basketball as he followed in his brother's footsteps, who VanPelt says was an inspiration to him and instilled in him the love of the sport.

VanPelt moved to Minnesota when he was 12, continuing to play basketball. When it came time for college, he chose Concordia because it allowed him to stay close to home while still pursuing higher education, and he liked the warm atmosphere and welcoming environment he felt when he visited. Most importantly, Concordia has given him the opportunity to be the first in his family to get a college degree, something that is very important to him.

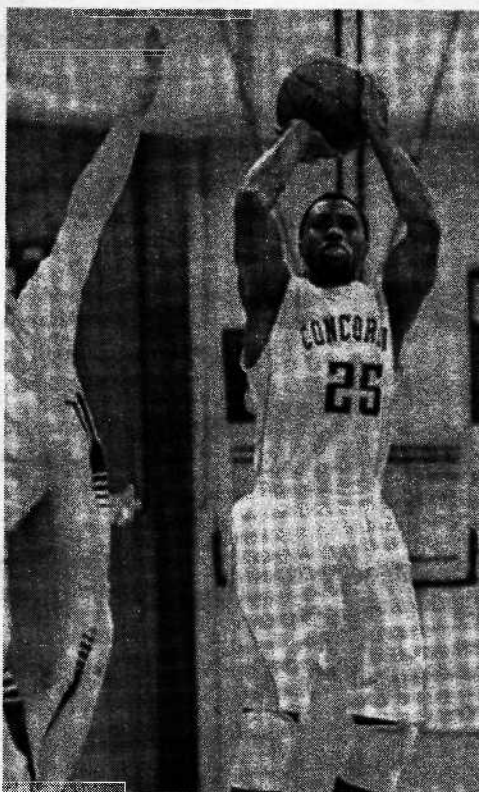
VanPelt is a K-12 Health and Physical Education major, but one of his biggest dreams is to play basketball after college, whether it is in the U.S. or overseas. He also hopes to start his own Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) traveling basketball team for youth. Whether it's playing ball, coaching, or teaching health or physical education, he says he wants to stay "in the physical world" no matter what that looks like.

As a Golden Bear, he plays the point guard position, which he loves because of the responsibility and pressure that comes with the position. He says, "The point guard is an extension of the coach, so you gotta be on the same page as the coach, you gotta understand

your role in everyone else's role, you gotta be a motivator for your teammates, and I just like taking leadership and responsibility."

At the beginning of the 2014-2015 season, VanPelt held the career record for free throws made with 363, and last year he was on the NCIS All-Academic team and the all-NCIS Second Team. He feels that his biggest overall improvement from last year is in his attitude, and he attributes much of the credit for this to the new coach, Joey James. "At first I was a person that scored a bunch of points, all the attention was on me; now it's more of a team-oriented atmosphere, so it's something I enjoy because we win more games, and that's what it's about." VanPelt also says that his perspective of senior year has changed from how he is going to be remembered to how this year's team is going to be remembered - a significant shift for a team leader to have. This shift is portrayed in the team's record this year, 15-7 as of February 7, the numbers being nearly opposite as this time last season.

VanPelt says that Concordia has made a tremendous impact on his life. He has found mentors in players, coaches, and professors, he loves his teammates and coaches, and he likes being in an environment filled with caring, loving people. But he gives the credit for his determination and motivation to his mom, who has not missed a home game since he first became a Golden Bear. "As a single parent, she deserves a lot of credit for raising a man in this world," VanPelt says, "She never put pressure on me to work or anything like that. She wanted me to focus on education and basketball. I just want to let her know that I appreciate her."

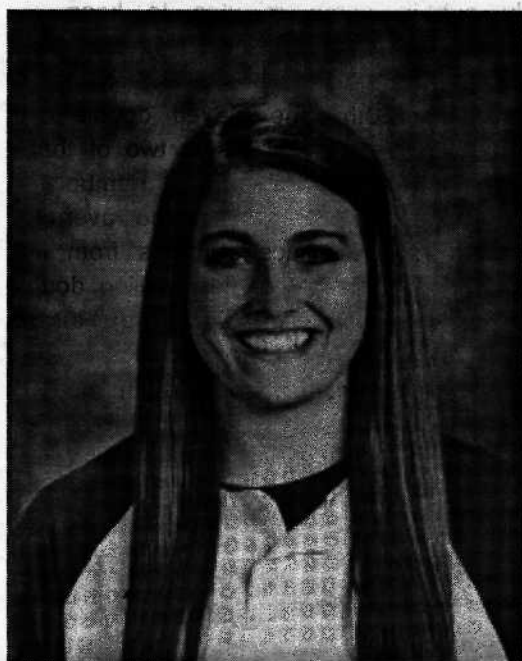


Female Athlete of the Month

Stephanie Kappes

By Tony Kohanek

Another month of school has flown by and it's time to honor another student athlete as athlete of the month. Softball is coming up and with that comes the chance for some warmer weather. In looking forward, a softball player feels right to be the female athlete of the month and senior pitcher Stephanie Kappes (#23) has been chosen.



When Kappes was just four years old, she started doing dance and gymnastics up until she was six years old. Age five is when she began her softball path with starting to play t-ball and at seven she played coach-pitch-softball. It wasn't until the age of eight that she started to play competitive softball and that was when she joined fast pitch softball. Going in,

she had her brother as an influence in sports, and a few other family members also did sports. During her middle school years, Kappes played three sports: volleyball, basketball, and of course, softball.

Having moved to Circle Pines, MN back when she was only six,

and being right down the street from Centennial High School, playing softball there seemed like the best option. Aside from softball, Kappes also played volleyball during her freshman and sophomore years.

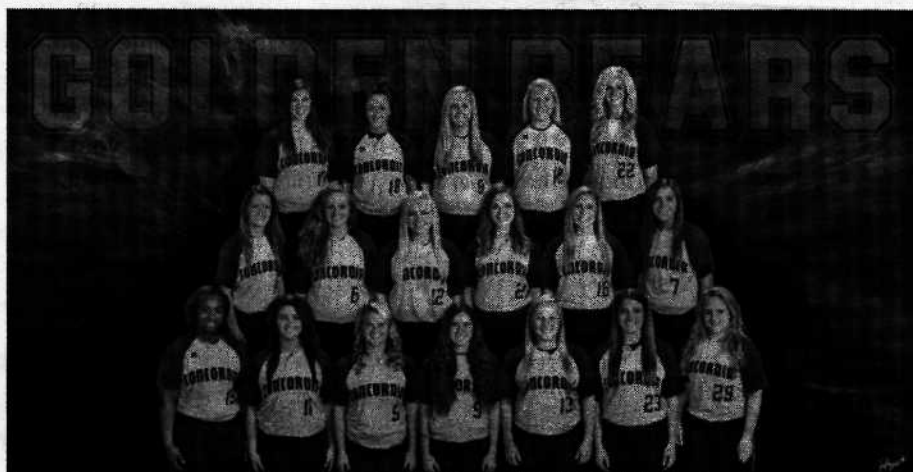
Playing softball for four years paid off as she was recruited by CSP specifically to play softball. Kappes also had some history with the Head Coach Bob Bartel, and Pitching Coach Paige Dopp. Coach Bartel had been Kappes's summer coach the two summers before her coming to Concordia and Paige Dopp had been her pitching coach since seventh grade.

She comes into the 2015 season with a record of 34-37 and an earned run average of 3.97. She's thrown 333 strikeouts and walked 170 batters coming into this year.



Softball is Warming Up at CU

By Tony Kohanek



As both the men and women's basketball teams are wrapping up their respective seasons and preparing to make a push for the postseason NCAA championship tournament, the softball team is getting ready to start their season. The Golden Bears softball ended the 2014 season with a record of 20-34 and a loss in the quarter finals of the NSIC conference tournament.

As this season gets underway, everybody on the coaching staff is very anxious to get out on to the field and rectify last season with a much better effort this year. Some off-season moves that the team made included bringing back Assistant Coach Paige Dopp, who took a

year off from coaching before returning for this coming season. The Bears also brought in former Concordia graduate Katie Anderson as a member of the coaching staff. Anderson has been part of the staff before, but this will be her first full year on staff. Head Coach Bob Bartel has also decided to structure practice a bit different with more focus on position play and the hitting aspect of the game.

Since the preseason has started, the team's work ethic and attitudes have just been outstanding. Coaching changes, besides staffing, are going to mean higher expectations out of everybody. To do this, the team added a day to the practice schedule and making practices a bit longer than in previous seasons.

The team this year has seven new freshmen and adding to the five from last year, that's 12 underclassmen, that are going to have to step up and play some significant roles this season. Coach Bartel is expecting the battle for starting spots to continue throughout the year. No spot is safe yet. He is excited to show the fans a better, prouder, and harder working team this year.



Anna Metcalf

"A Living River" Review

By Karina Schlecht

"We are the stewards of the environment. We have emotional connections to the environment that we should invest in. I wanted to look into the combination of interaction. I wanted to study the relationship between experiential learning and scientific learning." - Anna Metcalf

Anna Metcalfe grew up with the Mississippi River always in the corner of her eye, crossing it every day. Opening on February 5, her gallery, "A Living River" brought new ideas and unique art to Concordia. She began her journey in 2013. Metcalfe's main purpose in the beginning of this project was to see how Wilderness Inquiry teaches kids and how art can fit into science and experiential learning. Metcalfe worked with Wilderness Inquiry, a program whose goal is to put 10,000 kids, every summer into voyager canoes, and to teach them about the river and about experimenting with different forms of water testing, such as quality, clarity, and pH.

The "Living River" was created by a fiberglass representation of the Twin Cities Urban Corridor of the Mississippi, with ceramic boats

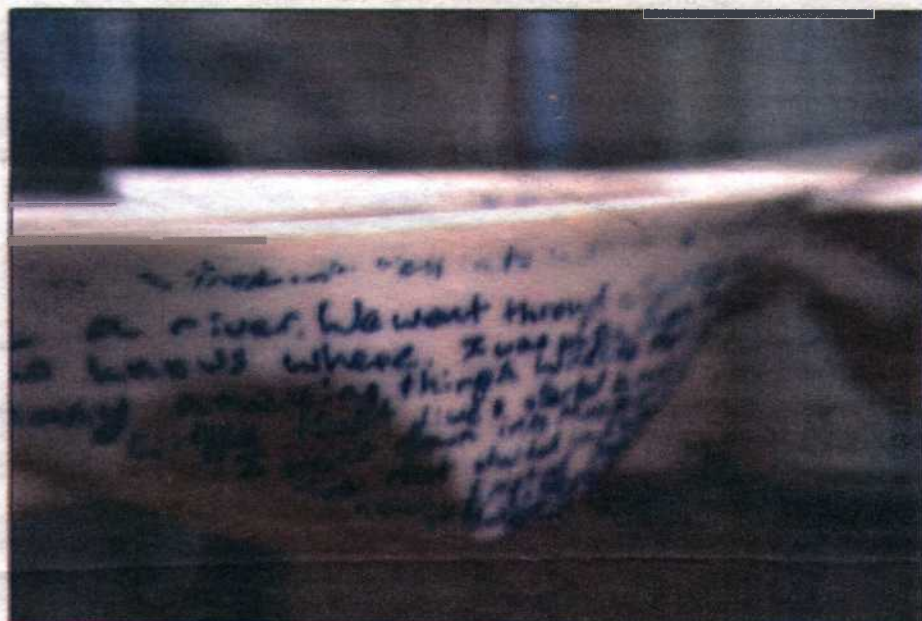


Photo by Dylan Novacek

hanging underneath them. These boats are covered with stories and comments from the students, including things like, "Calm and Peaceful, the River is beautiful" and "With Every tree there is life," as well as many other ideas and pictures drawn.

The many layers of the river seemingly seeped into the audience in attendance and created a unique vibe to the exhibit. Brought to listeners and viewers, by an iPod shuffle, were recordings of the children from the Wilderness Inquiry canoe trips, featuring students from Folwell Middle School and Upper Mississippi Academy. With the Mississippi flowing in the background, the students shared stories, opinions, and memories of the river. These recordings were put together by Joshua Clausen.

The exhibit was also interactive. Those in attendance could write down their own stories of the Mississippi, fold them, and replace them with ceramic cups that were decorated with a number of stories from historic texts. It was Metcalfe's wish to take these stories and create new cups with them, take her exhibit elsewhere, and share those stories with the lower Mississippi, exchanging stories upstream and downstream. Those who exchanged their stories for the cups got to



Photo by Dylan Novacek

keep the cups in remembrance of the glory of the river. Many shared their stories, all contributing to the truth of how the Mississippi affects all kinds of people. "We are connected to our resources through our emotions," Metcalfe said.

The exhibition also provided a water bar from Water Bar, a collaborative art project that serves local tap waters. It was developed by artists Shanai Matteson and Colin Kloecker of Works Progress Studio in collaboration with a community that includes scientific researchers, environmental advocates, arts organizers, public employees, educators, artists, and other community residents. Providing the statement, "Water is all we have," Shanai Matteson served Saint Paul tap water, St. Paul private well water, and Minneapolis tap water.

The exhibit was topped off by photographs of the students from Wilderness Inquiry and some of their trips and experiments. All in all, Metcalfe brought a lot of unique ideas and thoughts to Concordia.

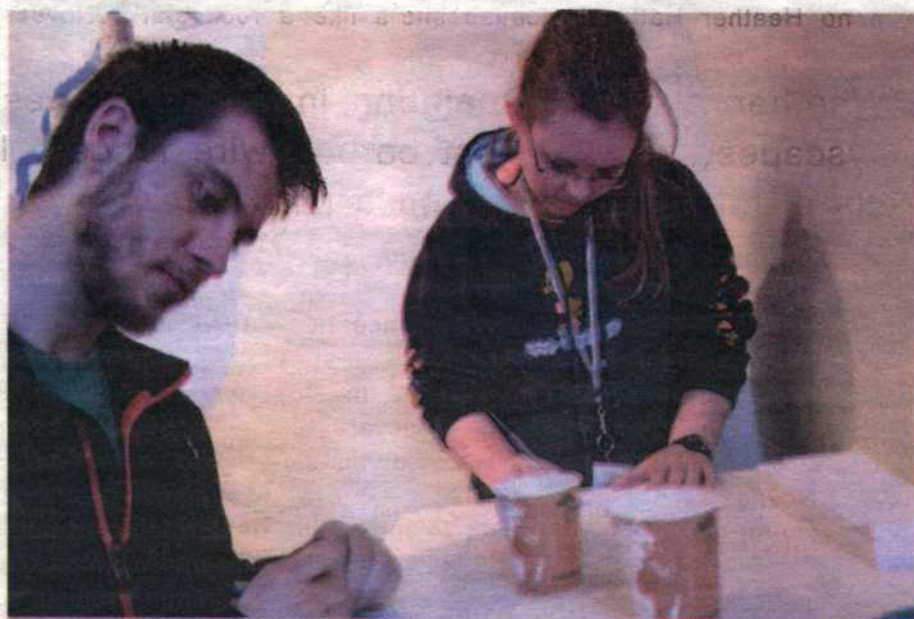
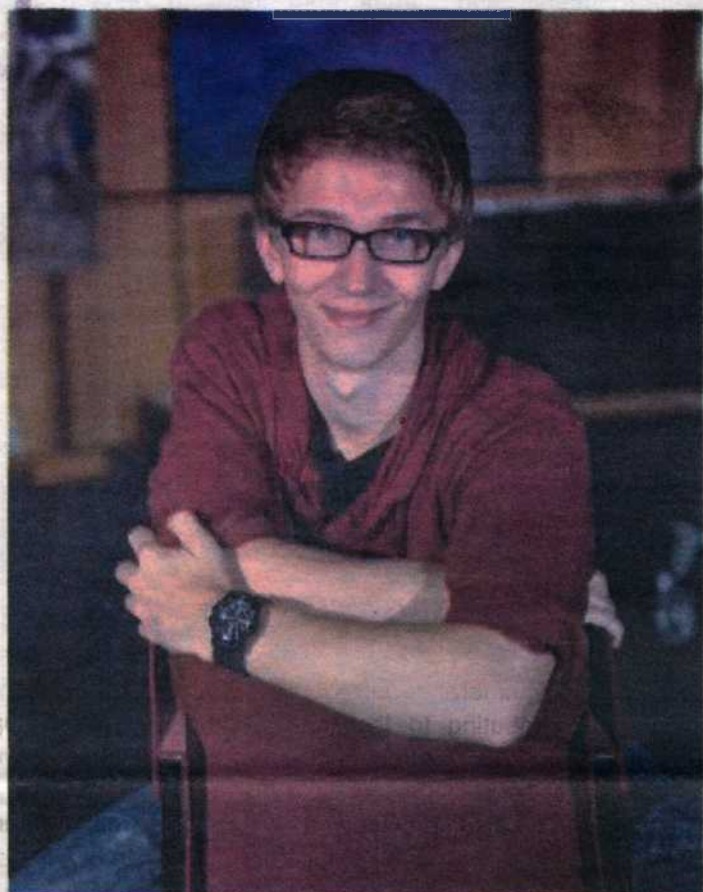


Photo by Dylan Novacek

Art Spotlight

Dylan Novacek

By Katrina Bell



A man of many interests, Dylan Novacek is a graphic design major enjoying his first year at Concordia. When his college of choice shut down, Novacek found that some of the professors came to Concordia. When touring Concordia, he observed the art program and decided that this was the place for him.

Novacek has a background in animation and uses the Adobe program and Photoshop, but his main medium of choice is photography. Novacek likes to incorporate the photography he does into other pieces. "I have no real background in drawing or painting, I'm just getting into that stuff more this year, and I've gotten pretty okay at it, but I'm no Heather Hatfull, because she's like a rock star." Novacek

"Whether it be light painting in the twin cities, cityscapes, or even just barbed wire fences. It tells a very loose story on a pretty epic level."

has taken a variety of art classes since he was five, but has always had a passion for photography. "I started doing photography probably in second grade when I got my first disposable camera. I would just gallivant across the backyard and take pictures of my dog and stuff. After a while, it sort of spiraled into an obsession."

Novacek aspires to capture the energy of a moment in each of his photographs, and he aims to make the viewer feel as if they are there. Sometimes, he is inspired by high energy things, and he often finds his muse in the vibrancy of cities such as Minneapolis. "I really like to experiment with urban/street photography and narrative driven pieces. Whether it be light painting in the twin cities,

cityscapes, or even just barbed wire fences. It tells a very loose story on a pretty epic level," Novacek says, highlighting some of the storytelling he plays with through his photos. "I also really like to capture some deviant art styles. I have always been really inspired by Tim Burton and I just love the gritty, dark art styles."

Also interested in theater and the spectacle of events, Novacek says, "I like to do just about everything with art. And it's really fun to dabble in promotional works, like posters, portrait works, like weddings and senior photos, and plays." He has been incorporating a lot of his interests this year, designing and creating the posters for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* last semester and the new play for spring semester, *Skyscape: The Plebian Scrolls*. Novacek also works for the Concordia Art Gallery, is President of the Art Club, and is a photographer for *The Sword*.

In the past, Novacek has won the Scholastic gold, silver, and bronze Key Award in photography. He has also won MN State High School League ribbons for various photography pieces.

In the future, Novacek aspires to work graphic design for one of the Fortune 500's in Minnesota, aiming for Best Buy or Target.

Novacek's final comment? "I like to do art because it makes me very, very happy."



Breaking Down Stereotypes

"Band Geeks"

By Karina Schlecht

Picture this: a boy with an ego the size of a pipe organ and his own pipes to boot has perfect pitch and complains about how out of the tune the clarinets, school bell, and fire alarm are. He talks about that "one time at band camp" every other sentence and laughs the loudest at his own jokes. He dates a girl who is equally as loud and full of herself, who thinks her boyfriend is attractive when he talks music theory, and who can transpose to and from any key for any instrument — and won't let you forget it.

Now, throw that picture out of your head forever and forget it ever existed, because people like this do not actually exist.

This is just one example of the stereotypes placed on the so-called "band geeks" that are present in every educational institution from the fifth grade and up. I have been in band for eleven years now, and though I have met many people with one or two of these characteristics, I do not know a single person who matches these descriptions in their entirety.

These stereotypes do not exist in Concordia's Concert Band either, although from outside the band room, everyone inside looks like they major in music. Our campus is known for its diversity, and this carries into the band room. Of the 28 students who participated in a survey I created, only eight of them are majoring and/or minoring in music at Concordia. The rest are involved in other fields.

Senior Daniel Petrich talks about this diversity.

"We are a community of individuals with a diverse background and different life goals. Yet, for two hours a week, we come together, unified by a common purpose — to make music together." This is further demonstrated when you look at the handful of band members who do not even attend Concordia.

Professor Isakson took the position of band director six years ago when there were only eleven people in what was then known as the Chamber Wind Ensemble. He has since expanded the program to forty students, and he now gives individual percussion lessons in addition to directing both the Concert Band and the Percussion Ensemble. He also directs the band at Christ's Household of Faith (CHOF) on Marshall, a private school that goes through high school, and he has

asked several students and alumni from there to play in Concordia's band. Some have been playing with us since Isakson first came to Concordia. They fill in instrumentations that are missing. Without these vital members, the music would suffer.

When asked what their favorite part of band is, many people who took my survey talked about the great people in band, the bonds created, and the community that is fueled by a passion for music. Junior Jackie Martini says, "I love making music and being with other people who love making music!"

This kind of feeling is a common experience among the music community. Senior Casey Stage says her favorite part of band is "When the band masters a piece and the harmony of the band gives me chills." Freshman Anne Gifford describes it as a shared language. "I love the community aspect of any musical ensemble. Band, especially, has an eclectic community, but we all speak the same language — music!" And senior Nick Avery says, "The Concordia band is both collectively extremely talented and passionate about creating music, and it is both a thrill and an honor being able to play with them."

Why do we play in band? Why do we give up two or more hours of our week — many times for zero credit? My survey results showed that 85% of people want to keep playing their instrument, even if it's not professionally, and nearly 40% enjoy band despite the fact that it's not part of their degree. So do we actually do it just for the fun of it?

Why yes, in fact, we do.

Next time you look into the band room, don't look at a room full of music nerds and socially awkward geeks — look at a room full of passionate people willing to dedicate their time and talent toward a community bigger than themselves who just want to make music. Sophomore Alison Rudolph sums it up perfectly: "Everyone involved takes time out of their day to make music together, regardless of how different each of them are, or what struggles might be happening currently in their life. Everyone leaves their mountain outside the band door so all that's left to focus on is the music itself. That's pretty rad."



Movie Review

Selma

By Cassie Shaw

BIOGRAPHY Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader who wanted to end segregation and gain voting rights for people of color. He helped with the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and held the March on Washington in 1963. He wanted everyone to be accepted no matter what race they were. After he died on April 4, 1968 at the age of 39, he left behind a legacy. He has his own national holiday and has won several awards and prizes. To date, there have been nine movies made about Dr. King, but the most recent one is *Selma* with David Oyelowo as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Carmen Ejogo as Coretta Scott King, and Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Selma was directed by Ava DuVernay and was written by Paul Webb. It received a 7.7/10 rating and has over a million views. *Selma* was released November 11, 2014, but hit theaters January 9. In the film, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. takes the stand for African

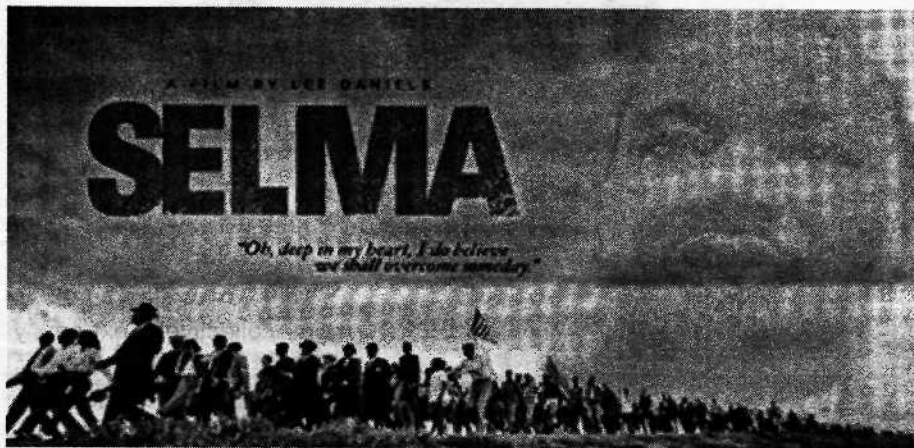


Americans in the community to receive voting rights. This movie shows the different events that took place to get the rights signed off by President Johnson, such as the walk from Selma to Montgomery. The first time they did the walk it was unsuccessful and police officers fought against the black community. Then, Dr. King got support from different races and ethnic backgrounds to help with the walk, and it became successful.

The rating for this movie is PG-13, best for teens and older because of language and violence. Overall, this was an amazing movie, and it motivated me to never give up.

"Our lives are not fully lived if we're not willing to die for those we love, for what we believe."

— *Selma* Movie Quote



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Book Review

Ender's Game

By Tara Rupiper

"Humanity does not ask us to be happy. It merely asks us to be brilliant on its behalf."

— Orson Scott Card

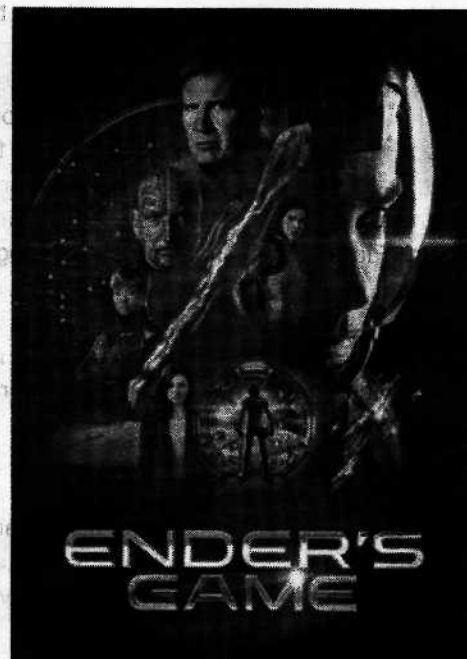
Most people are familiar with the genre of Fantasy/Sci-Fi because it's so popular and has the effect of exchanging your reality for another. That is exactly the effect that Orson Scott Card's Sci-Fi/dystopian novel, *Ender's Game*, achieves. Although this novel is fairly old, published in 1977, it remains ahead of its time with the setting of the book taking place in space on a spaceship. Since then, *Ender's Game* has been made into a live action film starring Asa Butterfield (Ender Wiggin) and Harrison Ford (Colonel Graff).

Ender's Game is a novel set in Earth's future where there are insect-like alien species. With these aliens being a threat to Earth's survival, the military force enlists children to Command School, including the novel's protagonist, Ender Wiggin, to be trained from a young age to physically and mentally prepare for the impending third invasion of an alien species. It is apparent early on in the book that Ender is different from the others being trained for combat. It is also clear to Colonel Graff, the top commander at Command School, that Ender is the savior of the human race.

Even though he is only the ripe age of ten, Ender earns his right to lead his own team to train in a simulation battle against other teams. Since Ender's team wins the simulation combat game, his team earns the great opportunity to battle simulations for practice in front of the head of the Command School, but not all of it is just for practice, there is always a hidden agenda. When Ender learns that he took a part in destroying an entire species while thinking he was just "practicing," he has to face the repercussions. The story follows Ender Wiggin on this exciting, thrilling, and physiological journey.

I was first introduced to this book through watching the movie adaptation of the novel. People said that it wasn't as good as the book, but then when is a movie ever good or better than the book? I really loved the movie and the concept of the storyline, and it moved me to read the book.

Let me tell you that it was well worth picking up the book. I thought that I loved the story from the movie's point of view, but I fell even more in love with the original version of the story. They are both different in their own way, but neither is better or worse than the other. What hooked me was the intense psychological draw. This young boy was unknowingly involved with the killing an entire race, and I was fascinated to see the way that it would impact his mental



state at such a developmental point in his life.

In my opinion, this is one of the greatest Sci-Fi novels ever written. I happily give *Ender's Game* five very sharp swords for its inventiveness, thrilling storyline, and its ability to make readers look at the psychological impact of major events.



Author Orson Scott Card

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Denny's: America's Diner

By Trenton Burns

Of the many grand exports of these United States of America, there is none greater than our belief in, and celebration of, the individual. Individualism stands fiercely opposed to tyranny, villainy, and bamboozery. It is the individual that makes America, America. As the final report of the cannon echoed across the land at the Battle of Yorktown, America would emerge onto the world stage as a nation of individuals that were ready to let their freak flags fly. No-where is this ideal more celebrated than at our roadside restaurant chains that use a person's name as part of their corporate branding.

Rick's Diner. Flo's Cafe. Big Bob's Comdog Hut. Arnie's Feed-bag. Chuck's Slop Trough. Take any highway, thoroughfare, country road, or goat track, and you're bound to run into any variation of these "Ma & Pa" operations. They invite weary long-haul-truckers off the road for a club sandwich and a hot coffee. They promise a little comfort food for the homesick country girl lost in the big city. But most importantly, they serve as monuments to individualism. Just imagine if old King George III had had his way, every eatery from Cape Cod to Honolulu would be called "The Burger King of England by Divine Right." But one only needs to see that iconic, squished hexagon, blazing gold, with the vibrant lettering that shouts "Denny's: America's Diner, Always Open" to know that we are living a land free of foreign rule.

The Denny's Restaurant franchise is a bastion of the individual. In another country, where human rights are an afterthought, a person might have named their restaurant "Hail Supreme Forever Glorious Leader Food Place," but in America, some guy, just some guy, named Denny, decided his handle was as good as any other, and BAM, history was made.

Though conformist ideology has managed to creep its way back onto the soil of freedom, as demonstrated by certain establishments closing their doors for business sometimes as early as 9:00 PM, Denny's

promises to always keep its gates open (or at least until two of every kind have made it aboard ahead of the coming flood). This means that Denny's is opened twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

With Barry in the White House, you can wear whatever please at Denny's. Sweatpants with a broken elastic waistband? A t-shirt that was initially shot out of a cannon at an Oakland Raiders game? Denim shorts that were once blue jeans that you cut the legs off of because the bottom halves were stained? Yes! It's Denny's, they don't care. You are free to be you.

And the food. The most important component of any restaurant review. It's terrible. Really gross stuff. But it's cheap and times are tough. My waiter is coming so I have to wrap this up. "Hi. Yes, I'll have the Grand Slam please. Oh, what the heck. It is my birthday, make it a Mega Grand Slam."

Open 24/7 and inconveniently located in the dangerous part of town nearest you.



Music Spotlight

Mariah Hoffman

By Karina Schlecht

While many students are forced to choose music or sports, especially at the collegiate level, Junior Mariah Hoffman has managed to stay in both. The flexibility of the track team's practice and lifting schedule allows her to fully participate in music and pursue a K-12 Choral Music Education degree while still being able to throw for Concordia's Track and Field team. Hoffman notes that, though she loves both and that being on the track team has been giving her great experience for her Coaching Certificate minor, she would choose music over sports if it came down to it. "Music always comes first. I'm glad I'm at a school where they're flexible enough that I can do [both], but if I had to choose one I would definitely choose music."

The music program was one of the biggest reasons Hoffman chose Concordia. She describes her first encounter with Dr. David Mennicke, the head of the music department, as "The Mennicke Effect," which she describes as, "the way he smiles at you and welcomes you in as part of the family." Hoffman also says she loved the prospect of being able to learn so many different styles of music at Concordia instead of being stuck in just one.

Before coming to college, she studied voice with Mrs. Sager, "the best teacher I've ever had," Hoffman says. During her junior year of high school, she decided that she wanted to combine her two passions for teaching and music, a decision that she says, "was really due to [Mrs. Sager] showing me how music can pull emotions out of you and how you can just get lost in music."

In addition to music and throwing, she has been involved with CSP's UMOJA diversity club and Gospel Choir. Hoffman met Dr. Cheryl Chapman in Gospel Choir and says that she helped her to better see and understand her cultural identity. She did not have much experience with diversity in middle and high school, so the diversity played a part in her decision attend Concordia. In the future, her ideal job would be working in an inner city middle school teaching choir and music appreciation along with coaching throwing for track and field and basketball.

Some advice Hoffman has for first year music education students is to start planning right away, because classes in the music ed program are not offered every semester, so making sure you're in the right class at the right time is critical. She says you should be willing and ready to do anything - you will be thrown a lot of curveballs, so a flexible mindset is helpful. She also notes that though people may push you and ask you to do things that feel uncomfortable at the time, these challenges help you become better, so embrace them. Finally, she says to join as many ensembles as you can, because though it may be busy, you will gain experience from each one.

Although Hoffman is busy with her many music ensembles and classes, along with throwing practices and track meets, she still puts God as her number one priority. "I don't define myself through my music; I define myself as a child of the King, and that's the most important thing."

Theater Spotlight

Patrick Inouye

By Katrina Bell

Hailing from California, Patrick Inouye is a sophomore transfer majoring in theater. He chose Concordia because of its theater department and has been very happy with his choice. Why theater, though?

To Patrick Inouye, "Theater has basically been a family tradition. My parents met through theater and choir, back at Concordia Irvine. My grandparents did theater too. I grew up with theater and I've always been exposed to it. It's a part of who I am. I first got started when I was young and I got more into it around sixth grade. It was just something fun to do, and I really enjoyed it. It's fun getting to pretend and do it all the time. I love that. It's like, you're always getting to be a kid. And be paid for it. Not a lot, but enough to make me happy." Following his family's passion, Inouye is taking theater to a new level in his life, pursuing theater as a profession, as well as following his desire



to teach theater. "One of the reasons I am pursuing theater is because I've had a lot of great directors, they taught me so much, and I wouldn't be where I am now without these people." Inouye wishes to teach theater and history.

Significant roles of Patrick's career include, Mr. Beaver in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a production he did in 7th grade, "Harry the Horse" in *Guys and Dolls*, which he played in his senior year in high school, Mike in Concordia's fall production *Wait Until Dark*, and Jonathon in *Skyscraper: The Plebian Scrolls*, Concordia's spring production.

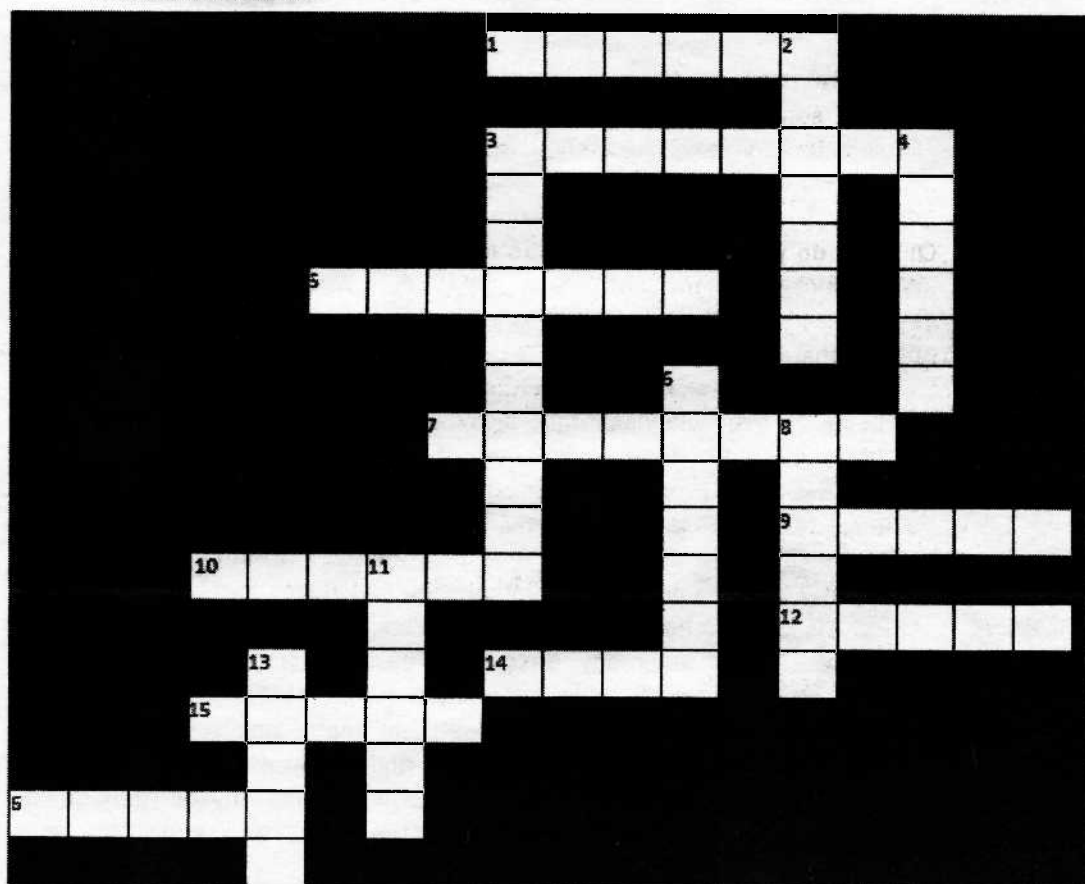
Inouye officially fell in love with theater in his role of Harry "The Horse" in *Guys and Dolls*, when he realized that theater was not just a job to him. "I fell in love with the concept of theater — entertaining people — and in turn you're entertaining yourself, so really, it's not a job. You're goofing around and everybody's enjoying themselves."

Inouye is very grateful to be going to Concordia and sees it as a huge blessing. With a small school, he enjoys knowing the entire theater department. "Theater is a great way of connecting with people. When you're a part of theater, you're connected to people — you have to work with them, you become a sort of family, and you get to find out more about yourself too. It's been interesting, the more I've been learning about theater recently, the more I've discovered that I don't actually know myself as much as I thought I did. The thing with acting is that an actor never gets to know himself, because he's always creating."



St. Patrick's Crossword

By Tara Rupiper



Across

1. A plant that usually has 3 leaves. To find one is considered to be lucky
3. A funny Irish poem
5. The saint who drove out the snakes.
7. An Irish clover
9. Blessed with good fortune
10. The capitol of Southern Ireland
12. People who live in Ireland are _____.
14. A precious metal found at the end of a rainbow
15. One of the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom
16. The color of growing grass.

Down

2. An arc of color in the sky
3. A mischievous elf in Irish folklore
4. A long reptile with no limbs
6. The 'Emerald Island'
8. A language spoken in Ireland
11. A story about mythical or supernatural creatures
13. Patrick was a _____.



McFarland USA

Conference Call with Kevin Costner and Jim White

By Katrina Bell

In theaters on February 20, 2015, *McFarland, USA*, is the inspiring film which follows coach Jim White, whose job-hopping leads him to a predominantly Latino high school where he struggles to settle in, until he notices his students' exceptional running abilities. Based on a true story, Coach White then forms a team of unlikely runners who bond to build not only a championship cross-country team, but an enduring legacy as well. Concordia was fortunate to be able to send a representative to see an advanced screening of the movie and to be able to participate in a conference call with Coach Jim White himself and the actor portraying him in the film, Kevin Costner.

The conference call included over twenty college representatives from across the U.S. and Canada. Featured are some of the questions discussed:

Q: What does it mean to you and the community of McFarland to have this film made and this inspiring story told on the big screen?

Jim White: It means an awful lot to the Community of McFarland, myself included. What it's done for the community actually is we now have a new city logo, the old logo "Heartbeat of Agriculture" is obsolete and we went with a new one that a High School girl came up with in a contest and it's a silhouette of a runner running through the field and underneath, it says Tradition, Unity, and Excellence. And this has been accepted by our city and our school and everybody else.

Q: This question is for Kevin Costner. What originally drew you to this project? Did you have any knowledge of this truly inspiring tale, before reading the script for this film?

Kevin Costner: I remember 15, 20 years ago, I read a story about McFarland in "Sports Illustrated" about Coach White, and I was just thinking, "Wow, what a great story!" And obviously, you know, once I finished the article, I didn't think any more about it until again that same amount of time rolled away, and I was approached to be in this movie, and I thought wait a second, I know this story.

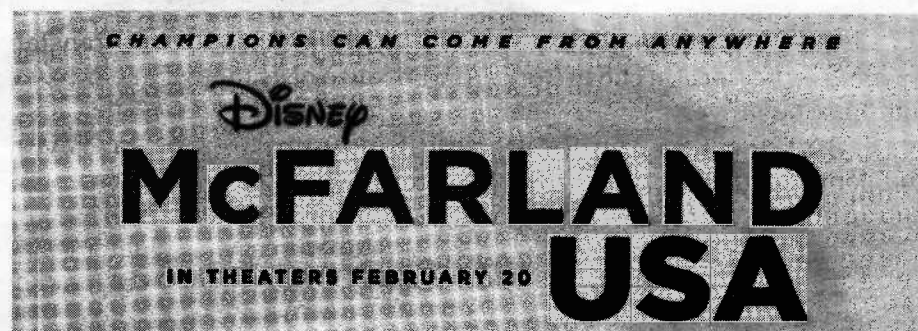
Q: My question is for Mr. White. What did you initially see within those kids that made you so passionate about wanting to start a Cross-Country team?

JW: Well, from the movie's standpoint, I needed a job. I needed to supplement the income a little bit, maybe, or I wanted to do something so I wouldn't get fired again. But when you're out there and you're looking in reality, I was looking for kids that have a desire to do something better.

And so then you're building a team. You're not building an individual, because now they have to encourage their whole team to do it also,

"It's a combination of young men and a man with a level of wisdom, a level of desire to come together with one goal in mind and through work, they achieved it."

cause that's the only way they're gonna get rewarded, so I'm look for things like [the love of running] in young people, and if you can get somebody that has instinct built in them, that they want to succeed, then you take it and grow from there.



Q: Question for Mr. Costner. There are many inspirational sports movies about a coach and his team. What makes this one stand out?

KC: Well, you know, I think when you want a movie that has to do with sports, one of the keys is not make it about too much of the sport. It has to be the backdrop.

We have the power to build people up, and we equally can just tear someone down, so it's a very delicate thing when you put the life of a young person in your hands and say "I'm going to coach you." I think that the thing that made this inspirational was not so much the finish line — yes, that's a Hollywood ending — but in real life, this actually ended that way, so that's the joy of this movie. It's a combination of young men and a man with a level of wisdom, a level of desire to come together with one goal in mind and through work, they achieved it.

Q: For both Jim White and Kevin Costner: What was it like working together on the film?

KC: For me, it's a true story, so to be able to talk with the person that lived this life. You can just imagine how fun that was on the sidelines to go back and forensically look at the bones of where this program started, look at them from a practical standpoint, look at them from an emotional standpoint, and actually find out where Jim is at in his life now. You know, if your ears are open, if you're genuinely interested, you know, it's a great story there. So that was fun for me. You know, sometimes we get caught up in the movie itself. But the real joy sometimes is the journey, and to talk to Jim about his own journey, for Jim to ask me about mine, those are things that we will be able to take with us.

Q: What do you want audiences to take away from the film?

JW: I think from my part, one of the real main feelings that I have as the feelings that Kevin Costner left with the town, when he chose to stay there because, he truly showed a love for the kids and a love for the town and the community, and I think you're going to get that feeling when you see [the movie] and that's a wonderful feeling, and the other part of it is really, really true to life hardships that the kids have to go through working in the fields. That it is so important — to understand what they're really going through.

KC: . . . It comes down to, sometimes, a very basic thing, which is, you want people to get their money's worth when you watch a movie, and what does that actually mean? Because films are not intellectual, they're emotional, and what I think is that when movies are working at their very best, they become about moments that you'll never, ever forget, and we carry the moments of films throughout our whole life. So at its very core, this is not a movie about running. This movie is really about the American Dream and the American Dream in McFarland is alive and well. There's nothing more American than a parent trying to make their life better for their children.

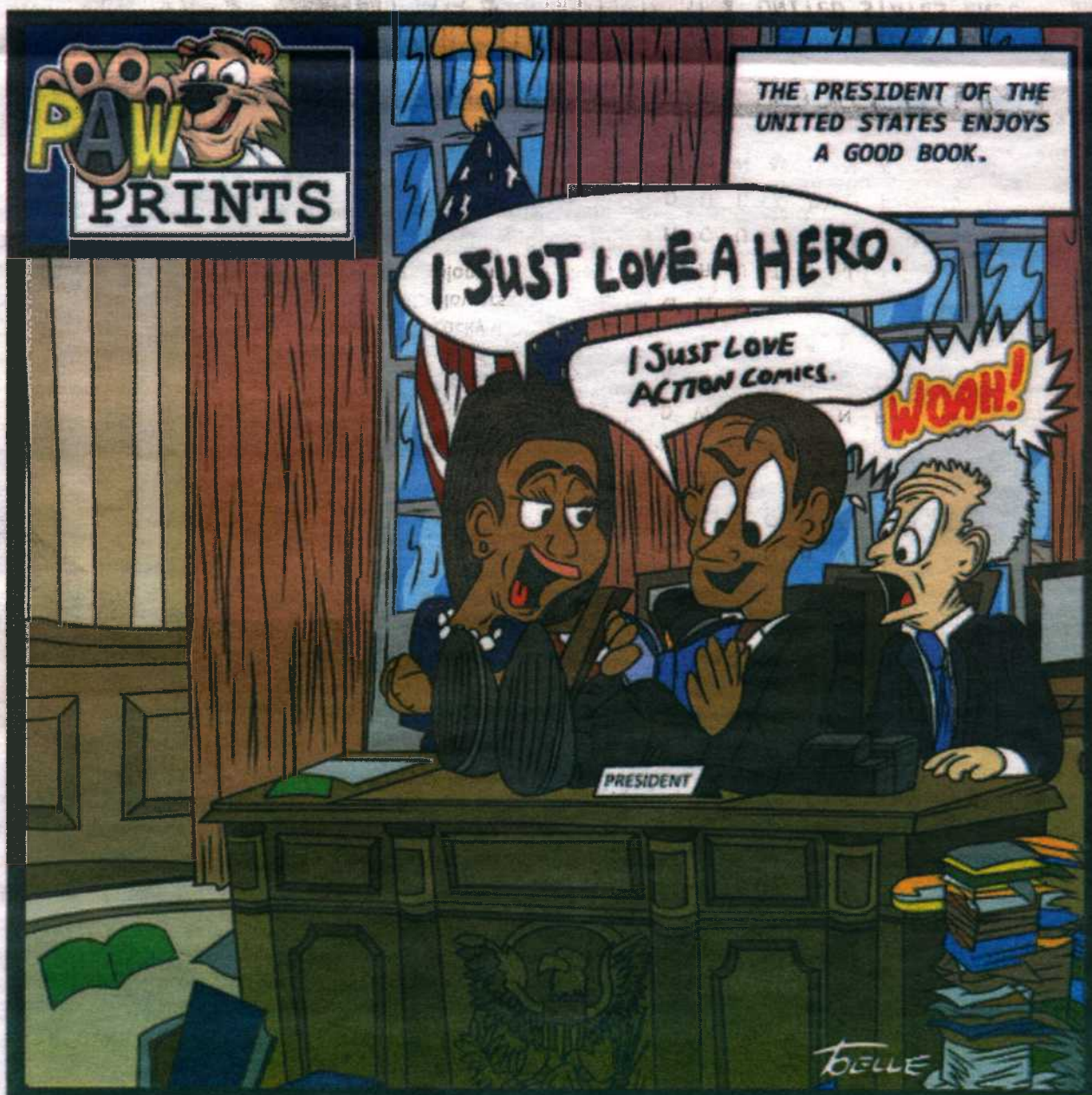
March Word Search

By Tara Rupiper



Thirty-one Days	Seventeenth	Melting
Showers	Leprechaun	Green
Puddles	Birds	Storms
Rainbow	Ides of March	Ireland
St. Patrick	Daylight Savings	Lucky
Growth	Kites	Flowers
Butterflies	Spring	Blooms
Gold	Shamrock	
Cold	March	

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By Andrew Toelle

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